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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,520	02/27/2004	Stefan Bohm	P04,0035	6921
26574	7590	03/23/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			KEANEY, ELIZABETH MARIE	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2882

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,520	BOHM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Elizabeth Keaney	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/15/04;8/16/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (US Patent 6,501,829; hereinafter Matsumoto).

Matsumoto discloses, in figure 1 and throughout the disclosure, an x-ray diagnostic apparatus comprising:

- an x-ray source (1) that emits x-rays;

- an x-ray detector (12) disposed such that the x-rays are incident thereon after passing through a subject, the x-ray detector acquiring a plurality of x-ray images formed by the x-rays incident thereon and converting the plurality of x-ray images into an electrical signal sequence (13);
- an imaging system (18) supplied with the electrical signal sequence for processing the electrical signal sequence to form video signals, the imaging system comprising an edge detector for detecting edges in individual x-ray images in the plurality of x-ray images and a filter for filtering the individual x-ray images along the edges detected by the edge detector, to generate the video signals (column 2, lines 55-57) ; and
- a playback device (6) supplied with the video signals.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Silver et al. (US Patent 6,408,109; hereinafter Silver).

Re claim 2: Matsumoto shows all the limitations as shown above.

However, Matsumoto fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific image processing means for edge detection and filtering.

Silver discloses an edge detector and filter for use in x-ray image processing wherein each of the individual x-ray images is composed of a plurality of pixels, each having a pixel value (column 2, lines 4-9), and wherein the filter forms an average of a number of the pixel values, less than the plurality of pixels.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the image processing method of Silver to the system of Matsumoto because it would improve the contrast and clarity of the final image produced.

Re claim 3: Silver discloses the filter forms the average using a directed mask that causes the averaging to ensue along a direction set by the directed mask (column 6, lines 1-5).

Re claim 4: Silver discloses the edge detector comprising a variance measurement unit for making a variance measurement of the pixel values in each of the x-ray images, and a unit for determining a minimum of the variance measurement, the minimum determining the direction to be set by the directed mask (column 5, lines 46-50).

The Examiner notes that the term "gradient" used in Silver has been interpreted to be variance.

Re claim 5: Silver discloses the edge detector further comprising an interpolator for interpolating pixel values of a pixel raster in each of the x-ray images to generate a sub-pixel raster in the direction (column 3 lines 67-column 4, line 2).

Re claim 6: Silver discloses the variance measurement unit forms the variance over a selected number of pixels, less than the plurality of pixels (column 7, lines 2-5).

Re claim 7: Silver discloses the filter being a low pass filter (column 7, lines 1-2) and wherein the direction is determined by high interpolation of the pixel values (column 3, lines 59-61).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patents 6,549,646, 6,625,303, 6,711,282 and 6,763,129 disclose the current state of the art of edge detectors in imaging processing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth Keaney whose telephone number is (571)272-2489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 5:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571)272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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EDWARD D. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER